

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

other name/site number: Kiwanis Chapel

## 2. Location

street & number: 17863 Beaver Creek Road (Camp Kiwanis) not for publication: n/a  
Beaver Creek County Park  
city/town: Havre vicinity: n/a  
state: Montana code: MT county: Hill code: 041 zip code: 59501

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ see continuation sheet

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property:

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the  
National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

6. Function or Use

## Historic Functions:

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
RELIGION/chapel

## Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

## Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Rustic

## Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE PIERS  
walls: WOOD: LOG  
roof: WOOD: Shingle on building  
LOG: on porch  
other:

## Narrative Description

Located in north-central Montana, ten miles south of Havre, Beaver Creek State Park is the largest county-owned park in the state. The park measures approximately one mile wide and seventeen miles long and consists of over 10,000 acres. Multiple small drainages empty into Beaver Creek, a perennial creek that runs north-south through the length of the park's grassy broken hills, clusters of pine forest, and beautiful undulating landscapes characteristic of the north slope of the Bears Paw Mountains. This area displays a wide range of geological formations including glacial deposits, volcanic strata, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks laden with fossils. Two man-made reservoirs (upper and lower) on the north side of park provide popular fishing areas stocked with rainbow and brook trout, walleye and northern pike, bass and perch. Approximately nine miles south of the park's north entrance, a grouping of buildings, trails, and meadows along Beaver Creek forms Camp Kiwanis, and the Kiwanis Meeting Hall sits south and slightly apart from the more modern building cluster, 120 ft. east of Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek runs along the east side of the highway. The secondary access road that runs through Camp Kiwanis, is located approximately 70 feet east of Beaver Creek and 50 feet west of the building.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A, C

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** n/a

**Significant Person(s):** n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:** n/a

**Areas of Significance:**

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION;  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period(s) of Significance:** 1933-1960

**Significant Dates:** 1933, 1938

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

For its historic associations with local entertainment, fraternal organizations, and recreational development the Kiwanis Meeting Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall at Camp Kiwanis within Beaver Creek County Park, the largest county owned park in Montana, played a significant role in the ongoing use of the park and was central to Kiwanis Club activities through the mid-twentieth century. Beaver Creek Park lies ten miles south of Havre and has been an important recreational diversion since its establishment in 1916. Havre's Kiwanis Club constructed the Kiwanis Meeting Hall there in 1933, the first permanent building in the park, as the central building to Camp Kiwanis, a recreational center established for disadvantaged children to enjoy. Throughout its history, the Kiwanis Meeting Hall served both secular and non-secular organizations. The 1933-1960 period of significance for the Kiwanis Meeting Hall includes the decades from its construction through the 1950s, when the erection of additional campground buildings reduced the overall use of the Meeting Hall. Beaver Creek County Park retains its original character, and remains an integral component of the landscape.

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall gains additional significance under Criterion C, for its representation of local Rustic architecture as executed in a rural recreational facility. Popular during the first half of the twentieth century, the Rustic style is especially associated with wilderness recreational destinations, and grew out of National Park Service designs and a new romanticism about nature and the western frontier.

**Kiwanis Meeting Hall**  
Name of Property:

**Hill County, MT**  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

(see continuation sheet)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☒ Local government  
☐ University  
☒ Other  
Specify Repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** less than one

**UTM References:**      **Zone** 12      **Easting** 599499      **Northing** 5348810

**Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):** T29N R16E, NE ¼NW ¼NW ¼ of Section 9

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall boundary within Camp Kiwanis is a rectangle measuring 138 feet by 124 feet, centered on the building, and extending 50 feet from each elevation. See attached Site Map.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is drawn to include the building and the surrounding landscape sufficient to convey its historical associations. Large Cottonwood trees create a canopy around the site as well as an array of bushes that all thrive due to the close proximity of the creek. Although more recent buildings from Camp Kiwanis sit to the north they are somewhat hidden due to the topography and natural landscaping.

**11. Form Prepared By**

**name/title:** Becki Miller & Gary Wilson

**organization:** Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

**date:** August 2009

**street & number:** PO Box 324      **telephone:** 406.376.3230

**city or town:** Havre      **state:** MT      **zip code:** 59501

**edited by**

**name/title:** Kate Hampton

**organization:** Montana Preservation Alliance      **date:** December 2009

**street & number:** 120 Reeder's Alley      **telephone:** 406.457.2822

**city or town:** Helena      **state:** MT      **zip code:** 59601

**Property Owner**

**name/title:** Hill County

**street & number:** 315 4<sup>th</sup> Street

**telephone:** 406.265.5481

**city or town:** Havre      **state:** MT

**zip code:** 59501

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 1

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Description of Resources

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall (one contributing building)

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall measures 24 feet 4 inches wide by 38 feet 4 inches long. The east-west oriented, rectangular, gable roofed, single story wooden building with a porch and main entrance faces west towards Beaver Creek. A 14-foot 2-inch square addition extends from the east end of the building, and its materials, design, and condition indicate that the addition dates to the period of significance. This extension likely served as the hall's kitchen.

A dimensional lumber ridge beam running east-west and three Kingpost trusses clad with 6-8 inch diameter halved logs support the original building's roof. The addition also has a dimensional lumber east-west oriented ridge beam with halved logs on either side, but there are no trusses, due to the smaller span. The roof, a 6:12 pitch, consists of halved logs with the radius side of the log facing the interior; the halved logs serve to conceal the decking for the wood shakes. The north side of the roof has several areas where the shakes have become saturated and moss is accumulating.

Posts on the north and south perimeter walls support the interior roof trusses. The walls, infilled between the posts, have a unique construction consisting of 9-10 inch diameter halved logs staggered vertically with one layer on the interior and one on the exterior. These slabs are staggered back to back to conceal the joints. The wood appears to be lodge pole pine.

Fenestration includes three paired nine-light windows on the south elevation, three paired four-light windows on the north elevation, two paired six-light windows on the east elevation and two paired nine-light windows on the west elevation. All windows are operable casements with wood frames covered by exterior screens, except the awning windows of the addition's east elevation. The concrete chinking at the exterior window sills no longer serves as an effective moisture barrier. A centered six-light wood door on the west elevation and a five-panel wood door on the addition's south elevation provide entry. Yellow paint covers all window, door and fascia trim.

The building rests on concrete footings poured in wooden buckets with metal rims. Remnants of the buckets remain on a few of the footings. Six east-west running log beams support the floor, which is covered by 2-inch wide double-tongued Douglas fir floor boards.

A shed-roof porch runs the length of the west elevation. Though in extremely poor condition, alternating halved log slabs cover the porch roof, a construction similar to the building's walls. Four single posts support the porch and its roof. Twelve-inch diameter log slabs veneer the posts. A low half-wall, consisting of split rough-hewn logs, encloses the porch perimeter. No concrete support footings are visible beneath the porch. A temporary plywood ramp replaced the original stair stoop that lead to the porch and to the main entrance door.

Electrical lines enter the building at the west end of the south wall, and modern fluorescent fixtures hang from the interior ceiling. Otherwise, the interior remains relatively unchanged since its construction, consisting of one large room at the west side, and the single room of the addition to the east.

Integrity

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall remains largely unchanged since its period of significance, and reflects the appearance and character of an informal community-erected facility built to serve the surrounding area. The construction style is locally unique with no other buildings known that are similar in appearance. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall retains all seven aspects of integrity including location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association.

While the design of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall is a simple rectangle, there are several elements that contribute to the overall success of the building. The simplicity of repetition throughout the building is apparent in its window openings,

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

Page 2

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

---

window lites, log trusses, consistency of vertical log members on the walls and roof. Other contributing design elements include a centered front door flanked by two window openings, a simple porch, and a single gabled roof. The addition also uses similar repetitious items, but to a lesser effect due to the smaller size.

Sheltered by tall trees and bounded by Beaver Creek and natural embankments, the Kiwanis Meeting Hall's original setting remains largely intact. A high embankment partially surrounds the site's north side, providing a sense of separateness from the rest of the building cluster. The secondary access road that serves both the meeting hall and other buildings located at Camp Kiwanis wraps around the west and south sides of the site. Beaver Creek also follows the secondary access road and adds the subtle sound of running water. Several large cottonwood trees in and around the building provide a shaded canopy. All of the above elements help to create a sense of enclosure around the building and create a lush, natural setting for the site.

The relatively rudimentary workmanship embodied in the Kiwanis Meeting Hall reflects the skills of the volunteer labor force as well as the nature of the material used. The Kiwanis volunteers were creative in taking available material and applying it way that captures an important variation on the Rustic style. The wall construction consists of halved logs staggered vertically with one layer on the interior and one on the exterior. These slabs are placed back to back so the joints are concealed.

The feeling of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall conveys the simplicity of Rustic design, yet fully serves the purpose of providing an adequate and inviting shelter as a meeting hall. The materials and workmanship of the log structure complement the natural setting.

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall served the purpose as both a meeting hall and later on as a chapel. The building conveys a sense of place and strong presence at Camp Kiwanis to this day. Even though it is unused due to needed repairs, the Kiwanis Club, Camp Kiwanis, Beaver Creek Park, and the local community members retain a close connection to the place, and understand its significance.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 3

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

---

**History of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall**

**Early History**

Prior to Euro-American contact, several American Indian tribes used the north-central region of present-day Montana as both a thoroughfare for intertribal trade and seasonal hunting grounds. Known major tribal groups that maintained traditional ties to the area include the Shoshone, Salish, and Kootenai Allied Tribes. The homelands of these tribes overlapped in the area between the Milk, Missouri and Musselshell Rivers, making the area a cultural meeting ground for regional tribes. In later years, the tribes were pushed south and west by the Assiniboiné, Plains Cree, Plains Chippewa, River Crow, Gros Ventre, and Blackfeet Nation<sup>1</sup>.

Within the recent prehistoric and historic period and until forced to reservations, the Mountain and River Crow homeland came to encompass a large area, stretching east to west from the Three Forks region to the current Montana-North Dakota border and north from the Milk River to south along the Missouri and Yellowstone River bottoms.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, the Blackfeet held most of an immense territory stretching from the North Saskatchewan River, Canada, to the headwaters of the Missouri in today's Montana.<sup>3</sup> The Blackfeet lived and traveled widely throughout the Milk and Missouri River country utilizing the region's resources, and engaging in trade. The Gros Ventre tribe occupied areas north of Crow homeland, and east of the Blackfeet, into what is now southeastern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan.<sup>4</sup> Competition for trade increased tribal rivalries, and though the Gros Ventre allied with the powerful Blackfeet nation, they began to suffer from attacks from the Plains Cree, Plains Chippewa, and Assiniboiné.<sup>5</sup>

As the nineteenth century unfolded, the once plentiful bison herds became increasingly scarce as more non-Indians moved into Montana, forcing tribes to withdraw further into core homelands and away from outlying seasonal hunting grounds and extended trade networks. Non-Indian settlement continued and inter-tribal power shifted and weakened. The last two decades of the 18th century began a century of tragedy for the Blackfeet Nation. Small pox epidemics drastically affected the population in 1781, and between 1785 and 1805 large numbers of Blackfeet died in battles over hunting territory. In 1837, another smallpox epidemic killed nearly 6,000 Blackfeet, an estimated two-thirds of the total population.<sup>6</sup> However, the Blackfeet Nation maintained their traditional way of life based on hunting bison, until the near extinction of the bison by 1881 forced them to adapt in response to the effects of the Euro-American settlement and resource loss.

A government railway survey team lead by Isaac Stevens came through the area in 1853 looking for a favorable railroad route to the west coast, and established treaties with the Indian nations along the potential corridor. Stevens' party traveled around the Bears Paw Mountains, scouting game and looking for gold. A major wagon route ran from Fort Union, Dakota Territory to Fort Benton. The route became the path for traders and gold seekers in the 1860's from Minnesota assembly points to the river port of Fort Benton, and by wagon to the gold fields.<sup>7</sup>

In 1877, nearly 800 Nez Perce spent a long and arduous summer fleeing U.S. Army troops first toward Crow allies and then toward refuge in Canada. Forty miles short of the Canadian border and following a five-day battle and siege, the Nez

---

<sup>1</sup> Raymond J. DeMaille, ed., *Handbook of North American Indians: Vol. 13, Parts 1 and 2, Plains*, (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2001), p. 694.

<sup>2</sup> DeMaille, "Crow," p. 696.

<sup>3</sup> DeMaille, "Blackfeet," p. 405.

<sup>4</sup> DeMaille, "Gros Ventre," p. 677.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 677.

<sup>6</sup> Warren D'Azevedo, ed., *Handbook of North American Indians: Volume 11, Great Basin*, (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2001), p. 517.

<sup>7</sup> M. G. Burlingame and K. R. Toole, *A History of Montana*, (New York, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1957), p. 88-89.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 4

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Perce ceased fighting at Bear Paw on October 5th, 1877, south of present day Chinook, 20 miles east of Beaver Creek Park.<sup>8</sup>

In the spring of 1879, the military arrived in the Milk River country to construct Fort Assiniboine. Civilian workers, US Quartermaster Corps workers and a group of Métis people from the north Red River Valley soon followed.<sup>9</sup> The military reservation originally included 700,000 acres, encompassing the Bears Paw range, the present Rocky Boy's Chippewa-Cree Reservation, and Beaver Creek State Park.<sup>10</sup>

By an 1880 agreement, the Crow sold over 1,500,000 acres to the United States Government and moved in 1883-84 to the present Crow Reservation in southeastern Montana. The Gros Ventre and the Blackfeet endured their own territorial loss. By the Judith River Treaty of 1855 with the United States, the tribes agreed to allow the construction of military posts and travel in the Milk River area and Bear Paw Mountains. Pressure to confine native peoples to small areas grew. A series of Executive Orders reduced Indian lands, and buffalo declined. In 1890, the United States placed the Gros Ventre at today's Fort Belknap Reservation.<sup>5</sup> The Gros Ventre, in turn, invited the Upper Assiniboine to live with them there. In 1888, those Blackfeet residing in Montana were confined to a 3,000 square-mile reservation in northwest Montana, under the terms of the 1888 Sweetgrass Hills Treaty.

In 1902, the Plains Cree (under Little Bear) and the Chippewa (under Rocky Boy) petitioned the United States for land and a permanent reservation. The army closed Fort Assiniboine in 1911 and granted the reservation out of those lands fourteen years later. Located in the Bears Paw Mountains, Rocky Boy's Reservation borders the Beaver Creek State Park to the south. By 1916, all North American Indians of the Missouri and Saskatchewan River regions were confined on reservations, except the Little Shell People who continue to petition for their own reservation.<sup>11</sup>

**Origin of Havre**

In 1882, James J. Hill came west to visit his friend, Paris Gibson of Great Falls. After returning to St. Paul, Minnesota, he sought permission from the government to build a railroad through Montana and west to the coast. Construction began in 1887 near Minot, North Dakota. The railroad passed within two miles north of Fort Assiniboine on September 6, 1887. The railroad proceeded onto Great Falls, Helena and Butte to connect with the Union Pacific Railroad. The St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad changed its name to the Great Northern Railway in 1890, and that year, James J. Hill identified Bull Hook Bottoms, later renamed Havre, as the railroad division point. The railroad reached Everett, Washington in 1893.

The arrival of the railroad proved very beneficial to not only the stockmen along the route but also to homesteaders coming west in search of land. The railroad stimulated growth and agricultural development of the region as never before. Homesteaders claimed nearly every half section along the railroad. During the 1910s, the area non-Indian population greatly increased due to the development of dry land farming and the adoption of the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909.<sup>12</sup> During one month in 1913, approximately 1,600 homesteaders filed claims in Havre.<sup>13</sup> The dramatic population increase however, soon waned as the drought of 1917-1920 severely impacted local agriculture, resulting in the departure of many

<sup>8</sup> Morrill D. Beal, *I Will Fight No More Forever, Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War*, (New York, Ballantine Books, 1976), pp. 233-265.

<sup>9</sup> Nickolas Hardenean, "Brick Stronghold of the Border," *Montana, The Magazine of Western History*, April 1979, pp. 56-57.

<sup>10</sup> Hill County Bicentennial Commission, *Grit, Guts & Gusto: A History of Hill County*, (Havre: Bear Paw Printers, 1976), pp. 16-17.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, pp. 26-27, 52; Gary A. Wilson, *Honky-Tonk Town: Havre's Bootlegging Days*, (Havre: High-Line Books, 1985), p. 7; D.N. Vichorek, *The Hi-Line, Profiles of a Montana Land*, (Helena, MT: Farcountry Press, 1994), p. 82.

<sup>12</sup> Hill County Bicentennial Commission, p. 90.

<sup>13</sup> Wilson, p. 28.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 5

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

homesteaders. The homesteading movement itself continued until around 1930, but the arrival of the Great Depression and another severe drought ended the immigration.

**Beaver Creek County Park**

Beaver Creek County Park's beginnings coincide with the closure of the Fort Assiniboine military. Established in 1879, the fort included: a timber/water reserve in the Bears Paw Mountains, coal fields located north of present day Havre, and hay fields near present day Big Sandy. The army conducted field exercises in the Beaver Creek Valley, in the vicinity of Mount Otis, west of Beaver Creek. At present day Dillon's Bottoms, a Beaver Creek campsite located four miles south of the present day Camp Kiwanis, the soldiers set up a camp. The large flat area around the creek, adequate trees for shelter, and inspiring natural beauty enhanced the campsite. Also, there was a permanent canteen for use of the officers and their wives. Enlisted men brought fish to the canteen in canvas bags from Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Missouri River.<sup>14</sup>

Frederick Remington, famous author/painter, wrote and illustrated an article for the *Cosmopolitan* magazine in February of 1897 about the troops stationed at Fort Assiniboine, the famed 'Black Tenth Cavalry Regiment' that had fought Indian wars in Kansas, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. Remington accompanied them on their rain-soaked maneuvers to the Beaver Creek Valley, along with the 25<sup>th</sup> Black Infantry. Remington wrote of "the flat plain where the camp was pitched under the Bears Paw range. All about was an inspiring sweep, high rolling plains, with rough mountains, interesting coulees and a well brushed [Beaver] creek bottoms"<sup>15</sup>

Fort Assiniboine, located approximately 16 miles to the northwest of Camp Kiwanis, vacated in 1911, and the post transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The former fort holdings were divested in 1916: The state of Montana purchased 2,000 acres and the fort buildings with plans to open a college and agricultural experiment station. The Chippewa, under Chief Rocky Boy, and other landless Indians received 56,035 acres for the Rocky Boy's Reservation in the Bears Paw Mountains. The Herron family received their homestead north of fort buildings in acknowledgement of their service supplying the fort with necessary milk and eggs during its period of operation.

Further, the Department of Interior designated a one-mile wide x 17-mile long park called Assiniboine National Park (later named Beaver Creek Playground) along the northern slopes of the Bears Paw Mountains. This consisted of approximately 440 acres of watershed (upper and lower reservoirs) and 8,880 acres for park grounds. The City of Havre acted as custodian of the land. Since the city could not afford to develop or maintain the park, the Havre Chamber of Commerce and local Kiwanis Club became involved. These groups formed a 'Playground Committee' which still operates as the 'Park Board'. The county also contributed heavy equipment and surveying/engineering expertise, with assistance from the Montana State Park Board and the Fish & Game Commission. In 1953, Hill County purchased the land and renamed it Beaver Creek County Park.<sup>16</sup>

**The Kiwanis Meeting Hall**

Allan S. Browne and Joseph C. Prance founded the Kiwanis Club in Detroit, Michigan in 1914, and it received its charter on January 21, 1915. Kiwanis clubs focused on business networking, and transitioned to assisting those in need during the early years of the clubs formation. The club has had many mottos over the years, including "We Trade", "We Build", and their present motto "Serving the Children of the World". Its mission is to "give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life; to encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships; to promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards; to develop, by precept and

<sup>14</sup> "Beaver Creek Originally Part of Military Post," *Great Falls Tribune, Montana Parade*, June 6, 1943.

<sup>15</sup> Frederick Remington, "Vagabonding with the Tenth Cavalry," *The Cosmopolitan*, February 1897, p. 352.

<sup>16</sup> Wilson, p. 25.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 6

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship; to provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities; and to cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which makes possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and good will.” Kiwanis today is a worldwide service organization with more than 8,400 clubs in 96 nations.<sup>17</sup>

Prominent local Havre businessmen established a Kiwanis charter club in Havre on November 23, 1923. The club initially consisted of fifty members, with attorney Victor R. Griggs the first president. The club soon became active in local enrichment programs, sponsoring lectures and other social events. Formal programs and committees provided outreach to both urban and rural families, and included Salvation Army building projects, summer camp programs, a Christmas bell ringing program, blood drawing, scholarship programs, various clean up projects, youth baseball programs, tree planting programs, and establishing the high school Key Club and collegiate Circle K Club.<sup>18</sup> The largest project, both financially and way of volunteer labor, was the establishment of Camp Kiwanis located at Beaver Creek County Park.<sup>19</sup>

In 1930, the Kiwanis Club of Havre received a 40-acre grant for a camp in the Beaver Creek Playground. The club used the camp for the entertainment of disadvantaged children and children groups from the 4-H, Girl & Boy Scouts, churches, Future Farmers of America, and school age children in general. In May 1933, the Kiwanis club members constructed a building as a meeting place for themselves and various community organizations.<sup>20</sup> The club purchased \$400 worth of lumber for the meeting hall from Glacier National Park. The Great Northern Railway shipped the material free of charge to Havre and volunteers trucked it to the site. Club members and their families and friends worked together to construct the building, assembling log slabs to give the appearance of a rustic post and beam log cabin. The Kiwanis Club dedicated the building on June 23, 1933 with a celebratory dinner and dance. All those who worked on the building as well as many members of the community attended.<sup>21</sup>

Upon its construction, the Meeting Hall was the only permanent building in the park, but a few others soon followed. The City of Havre, Hill County, state entities, as well as the Havre Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and local individuals lobbied for a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp for the area. In keeping with its mission to serve the disadvantaged, the Kiwanis Club favored the CCC's arrival as well. One of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs, the CCC recruited thousands of unemployed young men “to battle against destruction and erosion of our national resources”. Corps workers received \$30 per month, \$25 of which went to their families at home.<sup>22</sup>

The CCC established a camp at the park in 1935. In cooperation with the National Park Service, the State Park Board, and the Fish and Game Commission, Company 535 from Kentucky arrived and set up camp about a half-mile north of Camp Kiwanis. The CCC built housing for the workers, developed a fish hatchery with two ponds, a pheasant farm, a 120-unit campground, picnic sites, roadways, bridges, and a perimeter woven fence. The CCC worked closely with the Kiwanis by providing equipment for bridge and roadwork, and helped develop an outdoor pond at Camp Kiwanis.

When the CCC camp closed in 1937, the City of Havre, Havre Chamber of Commerce, and Hill County officials secured the materials from four of the CCC buildings. The Kiwanis used these materials to construct two dormitories, a dining

<sup>17</sup> Rock Valley Heritage Kiwanis Club, <http://www.rockvalleykiwanis.com/Kiwanis%20Overview.htm>; Kiwanis International, *Kiwanis Legacy*. Viewable at: <http://66.29.197.98/WhoWeAre/KiwanisLegacy/tabid/131/Default.aspx>.

<sup>18</sup> Key Club International is the oldest and largest service program for high school students. It is a student-led organization that teaches leadership through service to others.

<sup>19</sup> Hill County Bicentennial Commission, p. 194.

<sup>20</sup> “Kiwanians Will Start Work On New Camp Sunday,” *Havre Daily News*, Bear Paw Publishers, Havre, MT, May 10, 1933.

<sup>21</sup> “Dedication Of Camp Kiwanis Friday Night,” *Havre Daily News*, Bear Paw Publishers, Havre, MT, June 22, 1933.

<sup>22</sup> Anonymous, *Civil Conservation Corps*, Funk & Wagnall New Encyclopedia, Volume VI, New York, 1979, 157.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8

Page 7

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

room, four smaller three-room buildings, and a caretaker's cottage north of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall at Camp Kiwanis. These building improvements allowed the Kiwanis to provide housing and entertainment for 200 boys and girls, and the Meeting Hall continued to be central to the growing camp's functions.

Several clubs became involved with the camp and used the Kiwanis Meeting Hall through the years and provided maintenance. The Rotary Club involvement started after their youth camp burned down, which was located at the bottom of Rotary Hill, approximately 2 miles north of Camp Kiwanis. The Lion's Club, Methodist Men's Group, F.A. Buttrey's Relyon Club, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion all used Camp Kiwanis on a regular basis for meetings and events. Indeed, the Kiwanis Camp and its meeting hall were central to the activities of most of the fraternal and social organizations in the Havre area community.

However, as other buildings were constructed, the Kiwanis Meeting Hall was utilized less for secular meeting related activities. Many religious groups from the area used the Kiwanis Meeting Hall and adjacent facilities for conducting bible camps. These included the Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and the Salvation Army. The Kiwanis and other groups converted the hall to a non-denominational chapel, complete with pews, circa 1938. After that it was a favorite gathering place used for church services and weddings for many years, until 1960.

Today Camp Kiwanis hosts many camps throughout the year: Muscular Dystrophy Association, 4-H, Farmers Union, Boy & Girl Scouts, and High School Wrestling Camp. These present day camps still maintain the initial vision of the Kiwanis by creating a place for disadvantaged and underprivileged children to recreate and enjoy. The camp also functions as a family reunion and wedding venue. Camp Kiwanis presently receives assistance from federal and state agencies including the National Park Service, Montana State Park Board, and the State Fish & Game Commission. Unfortunately, the Kiwanis Meeting Hall, once so central to the camp's activities, sits unused due to many needed repairs. In 1996, Camp Kiwanis filled in the pool and it is no longer discernable at the site. Through the years several buildings have been added to the Beaver Creek Campground, north of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall.

Beaver Creek County Park offers many other areas and activities for recreation in addition to Camp Kiwanis. Although is park is small, it has diverse scenery. This includes: rolling grasslands, rocky cliffs, several creeks, along with a wide range of trees such as Ponderosa and Lodge Pole Pine, Aspen, and Cottonwood. The park has over 86 developed campsites along Beaver Creek. Many are equipped with eating shelters, tables, fire grates and vault toilets. There are also cabin lease sites available for rent. Fishing is also a popular activity in the two man-made reservoirs, as well as Beaver Creek. Other wildlife that can be seen in the park includes: whitetail and mule deer, bobcat, beaver, coyote, fox, mink, pheasants, grouse, Golden eagles and hawks. The Bear Paw Nature Trail is a new addition to the park and creates a scenic and educational hike for visitors. Winter activities include: ice fishing, cross county skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and some snowmobiling.<sup>23</sup>

The Kiwanis Meeting Hall played a crucial role in the history of the Beaver Creek County Park and its development as a major recreational site for thousands to enjoy. This rustic building remains as a tangible reminder of the beginnings of Camp Kiwanis. The park facilities have evolved from this single rustic building constructed during the Depression, but its presence is still preserved in its natural setting. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall was constructed by the Kiwanis, volunteers and businesses who donated time and materials. It was initially built for the use and enjoyment of the children of the city of Havre and Hill County and that same use is still utilized to this day. The construction of the Kiwanis Meeting Hall represented a continuation of the fraternal organization's commitment to the social health of the Havre area community. Numerous local residents rallied behind the effort. It stands as a tribute to rural recreation and social clubs, and respects its historic tradition and should continue to serve Havre and the surrounding area.

<sup>23</sup> Hill County Park Commission, "Beaver Creek Park, Hill County, Havre, MT".

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 8

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

---

**Architectural Significance – Rustic Architecture**

The “Rustic” style of architecture grew out of the ideological climate of the early twentieth century, and came to epitomize the architecture of western recreational destinations during the 1900-1950 period.<sup>24</sup> The Kiwanis Meeting Hall can generally be classified as “Rustic” in style. Popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and especially associated with wilderness recreational destinations, the Rustic Movement “was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism about nature, about our country's western frontiers,” according to National Park Service Historical Architect Merrill Ann Wilson. Fostered by a growing conservation ethic of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Rustic style was architecturally “unique” in that, “for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature...”<sup>25</sup>

The Rustic style is generally characterized by “the use of native materials in proper scale” and “the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication,” according to National Park Service Architectural Consultant Albert H. Good. Through these simple means, the style “gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools,” and when “successfully handled,” it “thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past.”<sup>26</sup>

Blending well with their scenic natural surroundings and pre-existing built environments, Rustic buildings celebrated the pioneer days and frontier living with a great deal of nostalgia, much like western recreationists themselves. Widespread reliance on log construction, therefore, was more than merely convenient in the heavily forested Mountain West; it expressed a philosophical statement that grew out of ideological climate of the early-twentieth century. “Real log cabins represented more than artful simplicity,” Peter Schmidt has noted. “They expressed an attitude toward life itself.”<sup>27</sup>

The Rustic architecture and log building methods exhibited by the Kiwanis Meeting Hall were common on the western frontier as a whole and in Montana, particularly during the pre-railroad era. Rustic log architecture experienced renewed popularity as a conscious style in the Anaconda area during the early 1920s. The Kiwanis Meeting Hall is a fine example of that architecture as constructed during the 1930s. The meeting hall is a rare example of a building constructed completely constructed by volunteer labor, and its unique style, form and setting, contribute to its importance as an historic recreational facility.

---

<sup>24</sup>For a discussion of the character-defining features of rustic architecture see William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, “Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942,” National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Management, February 1977, pp. 1-3. A comprehensive overview of the ideological and architectural influences that gave rise to the popular rustic style in America see Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service: 1916-1942* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1993).

<sup>25</sup> Merrill Ann Wilson, “Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style,” *Trends*, (July August September, 1976), pp. 4-5.

<sup>26</sup> Albert H. Good, *Park and Recreation Structures: Part I Administration and Basic Service Facilities*, reprint of 1938 edition published by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999), p. 5.

<sup>27</sup> Peter J. Schmidt, *Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969): 168.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Page 9

---

**Bibliography**

- Allison, Janet S., *Trial & Triumph: 101 years in North Central Montana*, North Central Cowbells, Chinook, 1968.
- Anonymous. "The Buffalo Soldiers." *Cobblestone Magazine*, February 1995.
- Anonymous. "Civil Conservation Corps." *Funk & Wagnall New Encyclopedia*, Volume VI. New York, 1979.
- Anonymous. "The Green Guidon, 535 Beaver Creek" *Havre*, 1935.
- Beal, Morrill D. *I Will Fight No More Forever, Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1976.
- Burlingame, M.G. and K.R. Toole, *A History of Montana*. New York, NY; Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1957.
- Burlingame, Merrill G., *The Montana Frontier*. Bozeman, Big Sky Books, 1980.
- Byron, William L. Jr., *Montana's Indians Yesterday and Today*, American & World Geographic Publishing, Helena, 1996.
- Cosmopolitan Magazine*, February 1897, Fort Assiniboine Preservation Association Archives.
- D'Azevedo, Warren, ed., *Handbook of North American Indians: Volume 11, Great Basin*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2001.
- DeMaille, Raymond J., ed., *Handbook of North American Indians: Vol. 13, Parts 1 and 2, Plains*. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2001.
- Dempsey, Hugh A. *Big Bear*, Lincoln, Bison Books, 1984.
- Ewers, John C., *The Blackfeet Raiders of the Northwestern Plains*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1958.
- Ewers, John C., *Ethnological Report of Indian Lands in Northern Montana*, manuscript, Washington D.C., circa 1956.
- Flint McClelland, Linda. *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service: 1916-1942*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1993.
- Good, Albert H. *Park and Recreation Structures: Part I Administration and Basic Service Facilities*, reprint of 1938 edition published by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999.
- Hardenean, Nickolas. "Brick Stronghold of the Border." *Montana, The Magazine of Western History*, April 1979.
- Havre-Hill County Library Newspaper and Article Archives:  
*Havre Daily News*  
*Great Falls Tribune*
- Hill County Bicentennial Commission, *Grit, Guts & Gusto: A History of Hill County*. Havre, MT: Bear Paw Printers, 1976.
- Hill County Park Commission, "Beaver Creek Park, Hill County, Havre, MT." Publisher Unknown.
- Kiwanis International, *Kiwanis Legacy*. Viewable at:  
<http://66.29.197.98/WhoWeAre/KiwanisLegacy/tabid/131/Default.aspx>.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Page 10

---

Nesland, Levine, Homestead Locations – Hill County ownership map 1915-17, privately published, date unknown.

Remington, Frederick. "Vagabonding with the Tenth Cavalry." *The Cosmopolitan*. February 1897.

Rock Valley Heritage Kiwanis Club. Viewable at: <http://www.rockvalleykiwanis.com/Kiwanis%20Overview.htm>.

Schmidt, Peter J. *Back to Nature: The Arcadian Myth in Urban America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1969.

Tweed, William C., Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, "Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942." National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Management, February 1977.

Utley, Robert, M. *The Lance and the Shield, The Life and Times of Sitting Bull*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Vichorek, D.N. *The Hi-Line, Profiles of a Montana Land*. Helena, MT: Farcountry Press, 1994.

Wilson, Gary A. *Honky-Tonk Town: Havre's Bootlegging Days*. Havre, MT: High-Line Books, 1985.

Wilson, Merrill Ann. "Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style." *Trends*. July August September, 1976.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

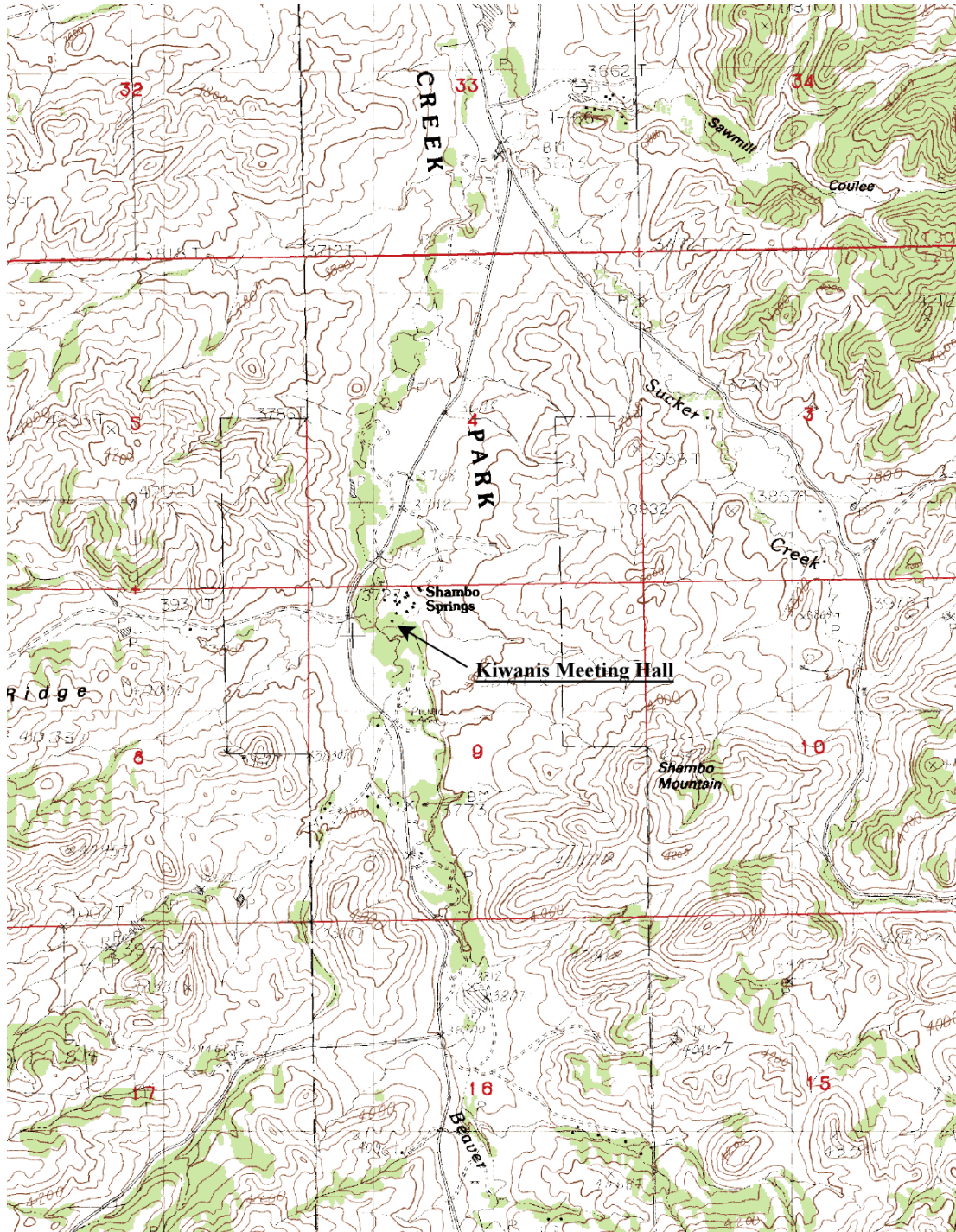
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 1

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Topographic Map



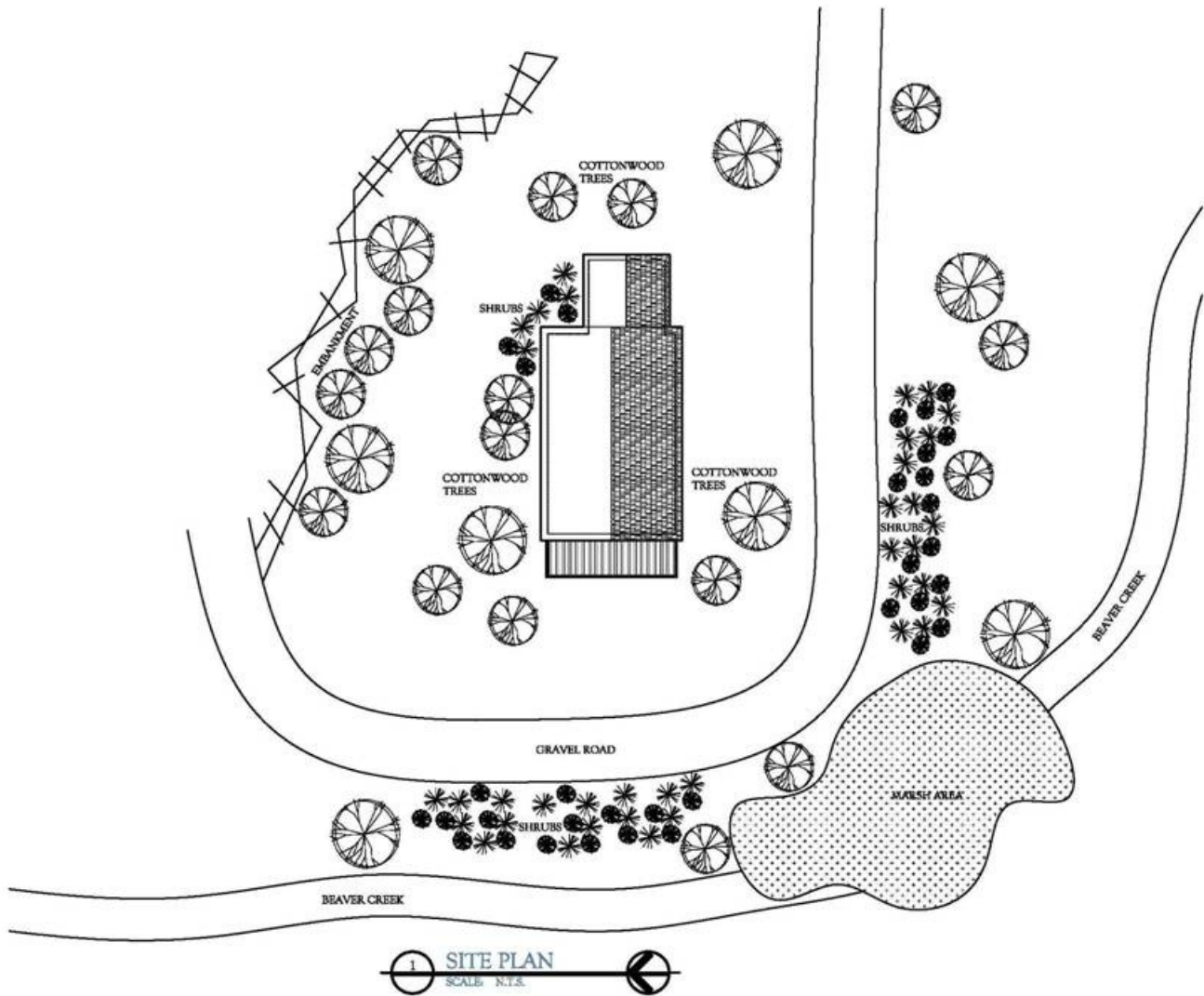
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 2

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana





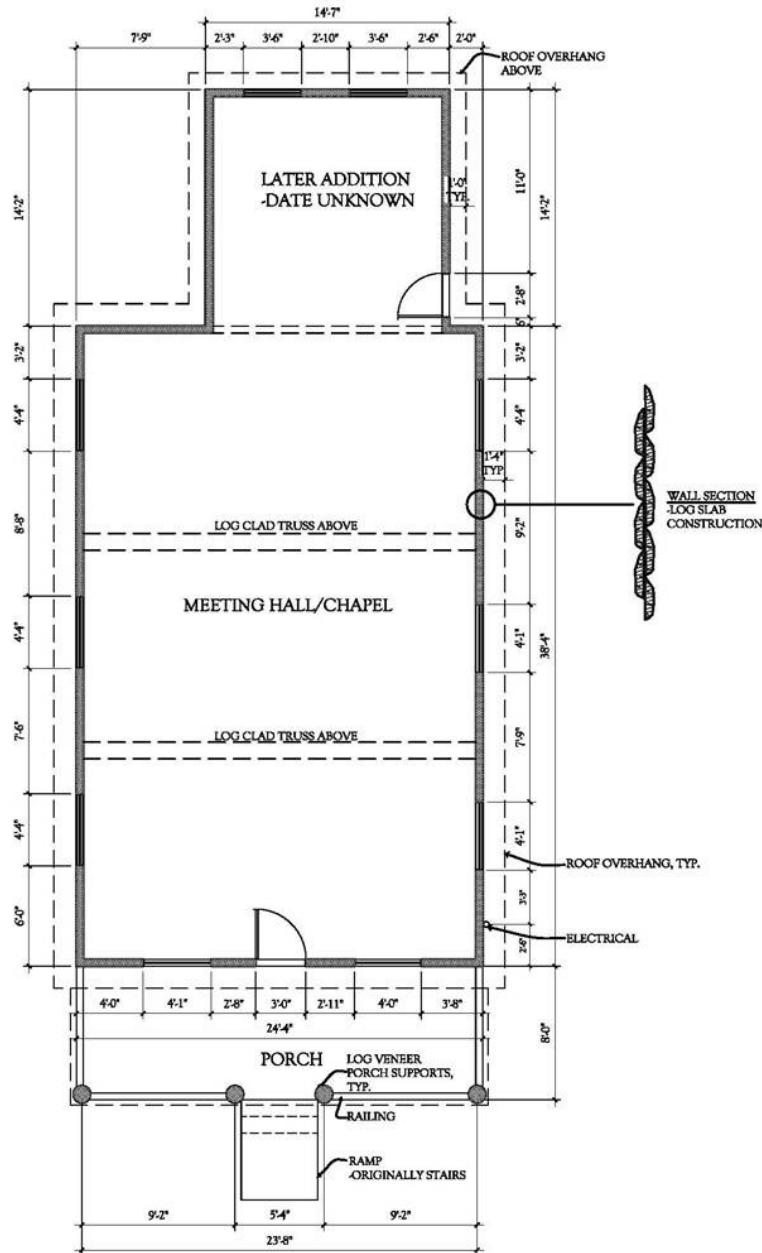
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Floorplan

Page 1

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 1

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

---

In accordance with the March 2005 Photo Policy expansion, the photos that accompany this nomination are printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, using a Hewlett Packard 100 gray photo cartridge. This combination of paper and inks is included on the NR's list of "Acceptable Ink and Paper combinations for Digital Images." The images are also recorded on an archival CD-R with a resolution at least 1200x1800 pixels, 300 dpi in "true color" 24-bit format.



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Becki Miller

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, west elevation, view to the east

Photograph Number: 0001



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 2

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall  
County and State: Hill County, Montana  
Photographer: Becki Miller  
Date of Photograph: April 2008  
Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission  
Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, south elevation, view to the southwest  
Photograph Number: 0002



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 3

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Becki Miller

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, north elevation, view to the southeast

Photograph Number: 0003



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 4

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Wade Bitz

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall (addition), east elevation, view to the west

Photograph Number: 0004



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Page 5



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall  
County and State: Hill County, Montana  
Photographer: Wade Bitz  
Date of Photograph: April 2008  
Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission  
Description and view of camera: Kiwanis Meeting Hall, west elevation, view to the northeast  
Photograph Number: 0005

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 6

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

---



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall  
County and State: Hill County, Montana  
Photographer: Becki Miller  
Date of Photograph: April 2008  
Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission  
Description and view of camera: Close up of interior kingpost trusses  
Photograph Number: 0006



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 7

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Wade Bitz

Date of Photograph: April 2008

Location of original negative: Havre/Hill County Historic Preservation Commission

Description and view of camera: close up of concrete "bucket" piers

Photograph Number: 0007



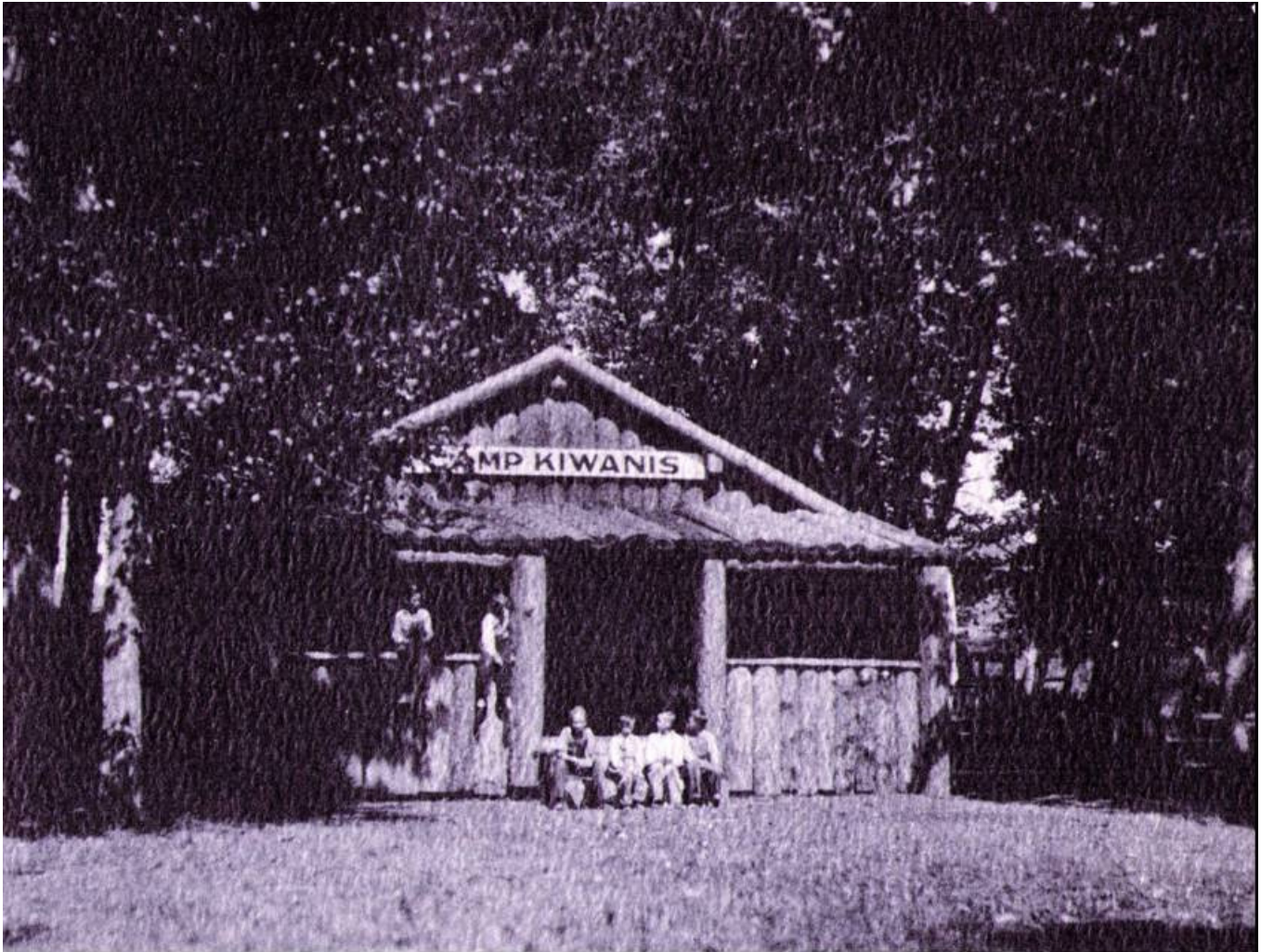
**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 8

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Name: Kiwanis Meeting Hall

County and State: Hill County, Montana

Photographer: Emil DonTigny

Date of Photograph: circa 1940

Location of original negative: From *When You Come West You Will See Montana* by F.F. Runkel, Maurice C. Wright, and E. Dontigny, circa 1940.

Description and view of camera: Historic photograph of Kiwanis Meeting Hall, west elevation, view to the east.

Photograph Number: 0008

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana

Page 9



Name: Camp Kiwanis Swimming Hole  
County and State: Hill County, Montana  
Photographer: Nell Bowery  
Date of Photograph: c. 1930s

Location of original negative: Havre City Chamber of Commerce

Description and view of camera: Pool constructed same year as Kiwanis Meeting Hall, no longer extant, view to the south

Photograph Number: 0009



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Page 10

Kiwanis Meeting Hall, Hill County, Montana



Name: Aerial of Camp Kiwanis  
County and State: Hill County, Montana  
Photographer: Larry Obie  
Date of Photograph: Unknown  
Location of original negative: Havre City Chamber of Commerce  
Description and view of camera: Aerial, assumedly photographed from an airplane.  
Photograph Number: 0010